

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 H-03 NSC-07 SS-20 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 FEA-02

SCI-06 NEA-14 IO-14 DRC-01 /173 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3328

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: PM ANDROUTSOPOULOS ADDRESSES NATION

1. SUMMARY: IN FIRST MAJOR SPEECH SINCE INITIAL POLICY ADDRESS NOVEMBER 28, 1973 PM ANDROUTSOPOULOS ON MAY 8 DECLARED GREEK FOREIGN RELATIONS WERE BASED " ON PRINCIPLE OF INDIVISIBILITY OF STATE TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER BOTH MAINLAND AND ISLANDS." AFTER REITERATING GREEK FIDELITY TO ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND UN CHARTER, PM STATED GREECE IS NOT OPEN TO INTIMIDATION NOR TO BLACKMAIL AND WILL DEFEND GREEK INTEGRITY AGAINST ANY THREAT. HE PRAISED ARMED FORCES AND PREDICTED THAT SOON THEY WOULD BECOME EVEN STRONGER. PM STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (HIS SPEECH WAS OCCASIONED BY INAUGURATION OF NEW FACILITIES AT UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI (THESSALONIKI 239 AND OBSERVED "PRIVILEGE OF LIVING IN A DEMOCRACY CARRIES WITH IT OBLIGATION OF EVERY CITIZEN TO BELL-PREPARED...AND WISE..." PM WAS BULLISH ON NATIONAL ECONOMY AND EMPHASIZED SIGNIFICANCE OF THASSOL OIL

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DISCOVERIES. ASIDE FROM ABSTRACT REFERENCE TO DEMOCRACY, SPEECH

DID NOT COVER KEY QUESTIONS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES, MARTIAL LAW, CONTINUING ARRESTS, AND STEPS TOWARD DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. GREEK PUBLIC REACTION TO SPEECH HAS BEEN TO LARGE DEGREE INDIFFERENT STEMMING FROM NATURAL DISAPPOINTMENT IN ITS LACK OF SUBSTANCE, BUT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES PROBABLY LITTLE EXPECTATION THAT PM WOULD ADDRESS MAJOR ISSUES. SPEECH GIVEN FULL RADIO/TV AND PRESS COVERAGE. END SUMMARY.

2. PM OPENED SPEECH WITH DISCUSSION OF IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN FORMATION OF FUTURE LEADERSHIP. HE NOTED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW UNIVERSITIES AND IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHING CONDITIONS "TO DEGREE THAT NO PREVIOUS GENERATION COULD HAVE EVER DREAMED OF REACHING." PM URGED STUDENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND POINTED OUT "PRIVILEGE OF LIVING IN A DEMOCRACY CARRIES WITH IT OBLIGATION OF EVERY CITIZEN TO BECOME INDEPENDENT, SELF-SUPPORTING AND AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, WISE."

3. TURNING TO NATIONAL ECONOMY, ANDROUTSOPOULOS PRAISED GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY WHICH HAS SUCCEEDED IN ACHIEVING PROPER BALANCE: "WE HAVE MAINTAINED PRICES AT NATURAL LEVELS, WE HAVE PUT AN END TO TENDENCY OF PRICE INCREASES, INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED AND WE HAVE PUT AN END TO EXCESS LIQUIDITY AND RESTORED NORMAL PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE TO ECONOMIC LIFE OF COUNTRY." PM ADDED THAT WITHIN FEW MONTHS FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED." AFTER NOTING THAT NO NEW TAXES NOR POLICE MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO BRING ECONOMY UNDER CONTROL, PM DISCUSSED NEW OIL DEPOSITS WHICH HE ASSERTED WOULD RENDER GREECE ALMOST SELF-SUFFICIENT.

4. FINALLY PM TURNED TO FOREIGN POLICY, STRESSING THAT GREEK POLICY WAS BASED ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF INDIVISIBILITY OF STATE'S TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY BOTH OVER MAINLAND AND ISLANDS. HE UNDERLINED GREECE'S ATTACHMENT TO RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS DERIVING FROM THIS PRINCIPLE. WITHOUT REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO TURKEY, PM DECLARED THAT GREECE EXTENDS HAND OF FRIENDSHIP ESPECIALLY TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, BUT GREECE'S "PEACEFUL DISPOSITION SHOULD NOT BE MISINTERPRETED AS WEAKNESS OR HESITATION TO DEFEND HER LAWFUL RIGHTS..." PM EXPRESSED GREECE'S FAITHFULNESS TO HER ALLIANCE, NATO, AND HER ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES OF UN CHARTER. HE STRESSED THAT "ARMED FORCES ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIGILANT OVER NATIONAL DEFENSE. IT IS HIGHLY FORTUNATE THAT THEIR CONSTANT MODERNIZATION IS NOW BEING EFFECTED, MOSTLY THROUGH NATIONAL RESOURCES, AND THAT VERY SHORTLY GREECE'S POSSIBILITIES TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN DEFENSE WILL BE EVEN GREATER."

5. COMMENT: PM'S 35 MINUTE SPEECH WAS LONG ON ABSTRACTIONS AND SHORT ON SPECIFICS. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE PRESS SPECULATION ANTICIPATING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SPEECH, PROBABLY NO ONE

REALLY EXPECTED MAJOR PRONOUNCEMENTS ON KEY ISSUES. PRAISE OF NATION'S ECONOMY HAVING ACHIEVED "SATISFACTORY BALANCE" IS TO DEGREE WISHFUL THINKING ALTHOUGH REGIME'S ECONOMIC MEASURES HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING MONETARY LIQUIDITY AND IN SLOWING RATE OF INFLATION. PM'S MENTIONING OF ARMED FORCES VIGILANCE AND RESTRAINED REFERENCE TO DEFENSE OF TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY INCLUDING ISLANDS SIMPLY REAFFIRMED STANDING POSITION. WE FOUND INTERESTING ABSENCE OF REFERENCE TO OUTSIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN PM'S DESCRIPTION OF CONSTANT MODERNIZATION OR ARMED FORCES THROUGH "NATIONAL RESOURCES AND THAT SOON GREECE'S POSSIBILITIES TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN DEFENSE WILL BE EVEN GREATER."

AFTER ALL GREECE'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND FACILITATIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN INDISPUTABLE FACT.

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